



*Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona*

José de Jesus Rivera

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 17, 2000

For Information Contact Public Affairs

Cathy Colbert

(602) 514-7561

COUPLE CHARGED WITH ASSAULTING AND INJURING THEIR CHILD

PHOENIX, ARIZONA – U.S. Attorney José de Jesus Rivera announces that **RENO JOHNSON JR.**, 36, and his wife, **REBECCA JOHNSON**, 32, of the Canyon Day Community, were charged with Assault with a Dangerous Weapon and Assault Resulting in Substantial bodily Injury.

The defendants were indicted by a federal grand jury on February 9, 2000. The indictment alleges that on September 25, 1999, Reno Johnson and Rebecca Johnson assaulted their child with a belt, rope, electrical cord, foot, and a board. They are also accused of striking her, on that same date, and as a result of their actions, the child suffered substantial bodily injury.

The maximum penalty for Assault with a Dangerous Weapon is 10 years imprisonment. The maximum penalty for Assault Resulting in Substantial Bodily Injury is 5 years imprisonment. An indictment is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and an individual's guilt is established only upon conviction. The investigation in this case was conducted by the Fort Apache Bureau of Indian Affairs and the White Mountain Apache Tribal Police. The prosecution is being handled by the United States Attorney's Office, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

RELEASE # 2000-021

(###)